

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 IGA-02 SWF-02 EB-11 /104 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB - CLSTERMER:MFG

APPROVED BY EA/TB - JBDEXTER

EA/P - WMAGRUDER (DRAFT)

AID/OPA/PR - JTHOMAS (DRAFT)

S/PRS - VKING (SUBS)

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P 262204Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 187206

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMER, BM

SUBJECT: BURMA FLOOD RELIEF PUBLICITY

REF: A. STATE 185881; B. RANGOON 8403

1. FOLLOWING PRESS STATEMENT, REVISED FROM ORIGINAL (REF A) TO REFLECT LATEST INFORMATION ON ARRIVAL OF AIRCRAFT, EXTENT OF FLOOD DAMAGE (REF B) AND IN ACCORD WITH USUAL AID FORMAT, WAS GIVEN BY AID PRESS OFFICER TO THE WASHINGTON PRESS ON AUGUST 26. (FYI: AS PRESS RELEASES ON OTHER AND MUCH LARGER USG DISASTER RELIEF PROGRAMS THIS YEAR HAVE NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED AT DEPARTMENT'S REGULAR NOON BRIEFING, IT WAS DECIDED TO HANDLE PUBLICITY ON BURMESE FLOOD RELIEF PROGRAM IN ABOVE WAY RATHER THAN AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO BURMESE PRESS, HOWEVER. END FYI).

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2. BEGIN TEXT: IN RESPONSE TO A WORLD-WIDE APPEAL BY

THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA, THE US AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AID) HAS ARRANGED FOR THE AIR SHIPMENT OF 40 TONS OF ANTIBIOTICS TO THAT FLOOD-STRICKEN NATION, IT WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY (AUGUST 26).

3. AIRLIFTED ABOARD A US AIR FORCE C-141, THE FIRST SHIPMENT ARRIVED IN RANGOON TODAY WITH ABOUT HALF OF THE

3 MILLION DOSES OF PENICILLIN AND 500,000 TETRACYCLINE CAPSULES WHICH ARE BEING SENT. THE REMAINDER IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE TOMORROW ON A SECOND PLANE. IT IS HOPED THAT THE MEDICATIONS WILL HELP PREVENT THE OUT-BREAK OF SUCH FLOOD-RELATED DISEASES AS TYPHOID.

4. VALUED AT ABOUT \$350,000, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION COSTS, THE ANTIBIOTICS WERE FLOWN FROM TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE IN CALIFORNIA AT THE DIRECTION OF AID'S FOREIGN DISASTER COORDINATION CENTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

5. THE FLOODING HAS AFFECTED SOME 700,000 ACRES IN CENTRAL BURMA, THE MAJOR RICE-PRODUCING AREA OF THE COUNTRY. THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA HAS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 1.4 MILLION BURMESE HAVE BEEN AFFECTED AND THAT 17 HAVE DIED.

6. IN ADDITION, US AMBASSADOR DAVID OSBORN HAS DONATED \$25,000 UNDER HIS AUTHORITY FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CONTINGENCY FUND FOR FOREIGN DISASTERS, TO BE USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF OTHER REQUESTED RELIEF SUPPLIES. (END OF TEXT). KISSINGER

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